REMARKS

Claims 1 and 5 are pending in the instant application. Claims 1 and 5 have been rejected. Claim 1 has been amended. No new matter has been added by this amendment. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

I. Withdrawn Rejections

Applicants acknowledge withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) involving Demopoulos et al. (2002/0136763).

II. Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. 102

The rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Obrosova et al. (1998) has been maintained for reasons of record. The Examiner suggested that Applicants' arguments were not persuasive because the reference, which was provided and cited only by the abstract found online, teaches "diabetes-induced changes in lens anti-oxidant status" and it is unclear whether such changes are hyperproliferative changes. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's conclusions regarding this reference.

When the article itself (Obrosova et al. 1998) is reviewed, not just the abstract, it is found that the paper explicitly teaches that the diabetes-induced changes being investigated are of interest for determining a mechanism of cataract formation (see discussion at pages 1442-1443and 1446-1448). By definition, cataractogenesis is the formation of a cataract and it is well established that cataracts are formed due to a clouding and opacification of the ocular lens. Cataract formation is not defined as a hyperproliferation of lens cells. Therefore, this paper does not teach or suggest the method of claim 5 which is a method of stabilizing the redox state of hyperproliferative cells, since lens cells do not hyperprolierate in order to form a cataract. MPEP 2131 states that in order to anticipate an invention the cited reference must teach and every limitation of the claim. The cited reference does not teach a method of stabilizing the redox state of hyperproliferative cells and thus cannot anticipate the invention as claimed. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Rosl et al. (U.S. Patent 6,238,659). The Examiner suggests that this patent teaches administration of the sulfhydryl-containing molecule pyrrolidine dithiocarbamate to

influence, modulate or stabilize the cellular redox state of viral cells of a papilloma lesion to increase or sensitize the effect of a cytokine, the chemotherapeutic agent. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

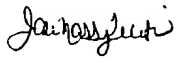
At the outset, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the cells being contacted are not viral cells, as taught in the specification as filed at pages 9-18. The patent of Rosl et al. (U.S. Patent 6,238,659) discloses only the use of agents to affect viral cell growth. No other cell types, contacted with an agent that stabilizes a redox state, are taught or suggested in this patent. MPEP 2131 states that in order to anticipate an invention the cited reference must teach and every limitation of the claim. The cited reference does not teach a method of maintaining non-viral cells in a specific redox state and thus cannot anticipate the invention as claimed. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

Applicants believe that the foregoing comprises a full and complete response to the Office Action of record. Accordingly,

favorable reconsideration and subsequent allowance of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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